

**Town of Foxborough  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
May 20, 2013**

**Members Present:** Robert Boette (Chair), Allan Curtis (Vice Chair), Eric Nelson (Clerk), Judith Johnson, James Marsh and Valerie Marshall  
**Members Absent:** Douglas Davis  
**Staff Present:** Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager and Lee Ann Tavares, Secretary  
**Others Present:** See attached sign-in sheet

**Meeting Opened**

Bob Boette opened the meeting, held in the Andrew A. Gala Jr. Meeting Room, at 7:00 p.m.

**Lane Property Field Damage**

John Drew, Christian MacNeil and Dylan Iagatta were present to apologize for ripping up the Lane property field with their trucks. Mr. Ed Lawton, who reported the incident to the police and the Commission, was also present. He explained that the police told the boys to attend a Commission meeting to apologize to the Commission.

Jane asked them why they thought it was OK to damage someone else's property. Mr. Drew stated it was teenage stupidity and he knew that they shouldn't have done it. He added that it was a spur of the moment thing and he does feel badly about it. He said that he did not see any signs posted, but if he had he would not have done it.

Jane, explaining that the Commission had similar issues on their other properties, asked how they could prevent others from doing the same thing.

Mr. Lawton, who mows the Lane property fields for the Commission, explained to the boys how the type of damage they did could make a difference as to whether he would make a profit or not. He told the boys that they weren't the first ones to mess up the Lane property fields, advising that restoration would not be necessary as "God would do that."

The Commission informed the boys that the Town would be hosting a clean-up day on June 1 that they could assist with. Jane asked the three boys to think of a creative way for her to get the word out to kids that the use of truck or ATVs is illegal on private property and to let her know what they come up with. She thanked them for any assistance they could give her.

**Lawton Farm, North Street - Agricultural Pond Dredging**

Mr. Ed Lawton stated that he planned to dredge his farm pond, which has become filled with muck over the years. He explained that the reconstruction or expansion of an existing agricultural pond (up to 10,000 s.f.) is an exempt activity under the Wetlands Protection Act when a farmer has a Conservation Plan approved by the USDA Soil Conservation Services (SCS). He plans to perform the work during July and August, when it will be drier. The spoils will be moved to another area as he has done in the past. Mr. Lawton gave Jane the phone number of Mr. Len Reno, NRCS (508-295-5151), suggesting that she call Mr. Reno to verify his rights and techniques. Mr. Lawton invited Commissioners out to see his farm, adding that they will have an open house in August.

Mr. Lawton explained that he irrigates out of his farm pond, which was dug in the mid-1960s by the SCS. The footprint of the pond was to be 100' x 200' and 15 to 20 years ago, one end was lined with boulders. The front and back of the pond have a gravel base; the north side has a deep muck base and the south side has a few feet of muck. An intermittent stream leaves the pond. Three pipes run into the pond; the first is a buried brook, the second is from gutter water and the third is from the roadway/driveway that goes through a swale before entering the pipe.

## General Discussion

Lane Property Fields - Mr. Lawton advised that the parking area at the Lane property is too small for such a popular place, so the field is used as a parking lot during the annual Fishing Derby. He wondered whether placing stones at the field's entrance might prevent parking on the field. Judi suggested that he contact Debbie Giardino at the Recreation Department to talk to her about alternatives they could use to reduce the need for Derby parking (i.e. use carpools, etc.).

Willow Street Conservation Property Fields - The Commission discussed the damage done at the Willow Street property. Mr. Lawton stated that it has been beaten down so badly by ATVs that he hasn't made a profit there in years. Judi added that people are down there every weekend. Sending letters about the illegal use of ATVs to abutters was discussed. Mr. Lawton warned that continued ATV damage to the field is making the property agriculturally unusable. Also, requiring licenses for off road vehicles could be suggested to the Police Chief.

Scout Projects - Jane informed the Commission that Jim Green is looking for Eagle Scout projects and asked Commissioners to submit their project ideas. Judi suggested vernal pool restoration work at a previously filled vernal pool on East Street, now owned by the Brownings.

## Minutes of February 25, 2013

**Motion** was made by Eric Nelson to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Valerie Marshall. **Vote: 6:0:0**

### 23 Shepherd Street, DEP #157-097

This lot is outside of the Commission's jurisdiction, but a Partial Certificate of Compliance is required to release it from the Witch Pond Estates subdivision's Order of Conditions.

**Motion** was made by Jim Marsh to issue a Bylaw Partial Certificate of Compliance for 23 Shepherd Street (Lots 8A and B), DEP #157-097; seconded by Eric Nelson. **Vote: 6:0:0**

### 10 East Belcher Road, DEP #157-395

**Motion** was made by Jim Marsh to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 10 East Belcher Road, DEP #157-395; seconded by Eric Nelson. **Vote: 6:0:0**

## Draft Regulations for Wetlands Protection Bylaw

Jane stressed the importance of the draft Regulations' definitions section; she will forward the latest version. The Regulations hearing will open on June 3, after being legally noticed in the paper.

## Rental Properties

Jane announced that the RFP's for the two rental properties have gone out to the realtor and are generating a lot of interest. She will be meeting with the current tenants to explain the RFP process.

## Land Stewardship Committee

Val stated that the Land Stewardship Committee (Jim, Judi and Val) is working on an outline of recommendations for each of the Commission's properties to present to the Selectmen.

## Meeting Adjourned

**Motion** was made by Valerie Marshall to adjourn; seconded by Jim Marsh. **Vote: 6-0-0**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Nelson, Clerk

Draft minutes submitted by Lee Ann Tavares: 5/21/13

Reviewed by Jane Pierce: 9/10/13

Approved by Commission: 10/7/13

## **Documents, Not Referenced Above, Reviewed During Meeting**

### Attached Documents:

1. Agenda, May 20, 2013
2. Meeting Sign In Sheet

### Location of Other Documents:

3. Manager's Report, filed in Manager's Report binder in Conservation Commission's office.
4. Referenced projects' documents: please see Conservation Commission's project file